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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE VIRGINIA TODDS, compiled by J. R. Witcroft, Merchantville, N. J. Despatch Publishing House, Frankford, Phila. 1913, pp. 34.

This is a compilation of data in regard to the various Todd families in Virginia. Much of the material used was published in the *Va. Magazine of History and Biography* in 1895 (Vol. III, 79-83). but no credit is given. In several places the exact language of the publication in our magazine is used. The pamphlet will be of use to persons interested in the Todd family, as it contains considerable matter in addition to that printed formerly in the magazine.

THE ELMIRA PRISON CAMP. A HISTORY OF THE MILITARY PRISON AT ELMIRA, N. Y., JULY 6, 1864, TO JULY 10, 1865. By Clay W. Holmes, A. N. with an appendix containing Names of the Confederate Prisoners buried in Woodlawn National Cemetery. With 62 illustrations, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. The Knickerbocker Press 1912, pp. xviii, 465.

This is a carefully studied and evidently honest attempt to write the history of the great military prison at Elmira. Mr. Holmes is plainly a humane and fair-minded man and has gathered his material from Confederate as well as Federal Sources; but with them both, one of the best of its kind, shows that no impartial history of Civil War prison camps can yet be written. With all his desire to be fair the author writes as advocate and not as a judge. Elmira may have been one of the best of the military prisons; but this terrible 24% death rate is a fact which cannot be argued or explained away. All students of the Civil War prisons will find this book of great interest. It should be stated that Mr. Holmes publishes many letters from Confederates who were prisoners at Elmira which speak, in general, of humane treatment, and, for a prison, good conditions.

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN HISTORY 1867-1913, by Charles A. Beard, Associate Professor of Politics in Columbia University. New York 1914, pp. vii, 397, New York, The MacMillan Co., 1914. Professor Beard says, in his preface, that in teaching American government and politics he constantly meets large numbers of students who have no knowledge of the most elementary facts of American history since the Civil War. If the professor were to extend his questionings to the world outside of

college he would find an equally large proportion of citizens who are equally ignorant. There is hardly anything that most of us know less about than contemporary history taking it to mean the preceding thirty-five or forty years. This book seems to contain just the information the man-in-the-street usually has not, and which he assuredly should have to give him an intelligent, working, voting knowledge of present conditions. It treats of the restoration of white dominion in the South, the economic revolution, the revolution in politics and law, parties and party issues 1877-1896, two decades of Federal legislation 1877-1896, the growth of dissent, the campaign of 1896, imperialism, the development of capitalism, the administration of Theodore Roosevelt, the revival of dissent; Mr. Taft and Republican disintegration, and the campaign of 1912, and has an appendix (of presidential election figures) a bibliography and index.

ADVANCED AMERICAN HISTORY. By S. E. Forman, author of "Advanced Civics". "A History of the United States" or New York, The Century Co. 1914, pp. 634, with ten maps and many illustrations.

The distinctive features of this work, which is intended for High Schools, Normal Schools and Academies are:

The large share of attention given to Economic and Social subjects; the ample treatment of the Industrial and Political History of Recent Times; the full and faithful account of the Westward Movement; Excellent Maps, including one series showing the movement of the Frontier Line, and another showing the development of the Transportation Routes; and the Teacher Aids, References and Suggestions for Independent Work and an Analytical Index.

THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW, Vol. I, No. 1, June 1914, published quarterly by The Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, pp. 163.

All students of American history will agree with two well known historians that the Mississippi Valley is big enough for a historical review of its own, and that there is need for such a publication as an outlet for the volume of historical work in this country. The new review is in the hands of men who are among the chief workers in the history of the great valley and their names are an assurance of what the quality of the review will be. In character it will resemble the American Historical Review for while it will publish historical papers and original documents it will, to a great extent, be a real review of historical work relating to the country between the Alleghanies and the Rockies.

The present number has the following table of contents; the United States and Mexico, 1835-37, by Eugene C. Barker; Review of McMaster's History of the people of the United States, by Carl R. Fish; Louisiana as a Factor in American Diplomacy 1795-1800, by James A. James; Historical Activities in the Old Northwest and Eastern Canada, 1913-14, by Solon J. Buck; Notes and Documents; Book Reviews; News and Comments.

It is needless to say that this new publication will receive a hearty welcome.